Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08021 201742Z ACTION SS-25

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FOR ASST SECY MAYNES, DEPUTY ASST SECY DALLEY AND DESK OFFICER JOHN MILLS ONLY FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO
SUBJECT: ILO --POSITIONING OURSELVES FOR CONTINUED U.S. MEMBER-SHIP

1. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL FINALLY DECIDE TO REMAIN IN THE ILO FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR, I URGE THAT WE BEGIN NOW TO THINK AHEAD TO HOW WE WILL ORGANIZE OURSELVES IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN THE UPCOMING WORKING GROUP ON STRUCTURE AND IN THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD.

2. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN HAVING A SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF STRUCTURE AMONG A LIMITED NUMBER OF G-77 AND IMEC COUNTRIES. THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN GENEVA CHIEFS OF MISSION, OR THEIR DEPUTIES OR ILO EXPERTS, TALKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER TO GET SOME FEELING FOR THE ATTITUDES OF OTHERS AND WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE. SO FAR WE HAVE TALKED ONLY OF PRINCIPLES, AVOIDING SPECIFICS SO AS NOT TO GET INTO A NEGOTIATING STANCE. WE PLAN TO KEEP OUR TALKS IN THIS MODE FOR THE PRESENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 08021 201742Z

3. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED MY LETTER OF AUGUST 25 SUGGESTING THAT A CONTINGENCY STUDY ON STRUCTURE BE UNDERTAKEN BY S/P. I WOULD URGE THAT, IF THIS HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN INITIATED, CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN NOW TO IMPLEMENTING THE IDEA SO THAT WE WILL HAVE A SOUND GRASP OF WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE AND SOME

NEW (AND HOPEFULLY IMAGINATIVE) USG POSITIONS BY THE TIME THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE MEETS IN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 31.

4. MEANWHILE, I THINK THAT IT IS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT
TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE MODE OF U.S. PARTICIPATION
IN THESE UPCOMING MEETINGS. CLEARLY, IF THE PRESIDENT'S
DECISION IS TO REMAIN IN THE ILO, HIS ANNOUNCEMENT
MUST BE FOLLOWED BY A CLEAR SIGNAL THAT THE INFLEXIBILITY
OF THE U.S. ATTITUDE AND NEGOTIATING STYLE HAS CHANGED.
THIS MEANS CHANGING THE DRAMATIS PERSONAE. THE QUESTION
WE SHOULD BE CONSIDERING IS WHOM SHOULD BE DESIGNATED
TO REPRESENT THE U.S. AT THE NEXT GOVERNING BOARD
MEETING IN NOVEMBER. I REGARD IT AS CRUCIAL THAT
THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THIS MISSION PLAY A MAJOR
SUBSTANTIVE ROLE AND WILL WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS
THIS DURING MY VISIT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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